

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

August 30, 2007

Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Bryant Williams (for Gordon Donoho), Roz Clark, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Tom Gentile, Morgan Doizaki, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Michael Roth, Jan Sangster, Paula Farris.

Absent: Anthony Alaniz, Cary Catalano, , Floyd Harris, Robert Harris, Lorena Martinez, Deep Sethi, H. Spees, David Tittle, Darrell Tuckness, Frank Franco, Ed Bailey,

Guests: Lt. Dennis Montejano, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Lissa Parker and Pat Barr.

Call to Order: The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:42 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from July 26, 2007 were approved with minor corrections.

Agenda Items:

Opening Remarks

Roz Clark pointed out that terms have expired for all but two board members.

Chief Dyer discussed plans to review the situation and to send out e-mails asking who would like to continue and who is willing to step down. He further stated that he is happy w/existing board and those who want to stay are welcome. Extensive absences will have to be addressed; those continuously absent are taking the spot of someone else in the community who may be more available. Excused absences are understandable.

Chief Dyer provided an update on Officer Rudy Ruiz, who had been hit by a car while on his motorcycle. Officer Ruiz was released from the hospital and is doing well.

Enrique Reade stated that scared straight is not the same without the presence of Officer Ruiz.

West Fresno Violent Crime Task Force

Chief Dyer explained that although they are referred to as "West Fresno Gangs," they are all over Fresno. They tend to all come back to West Fresno. There are currently about 25 West Fresno gangs with 700 validated members and over 700 known associates.

For far too long the PD has operated w/ idea of suppressing violence. This has not gotten to root of the problem: the growing gang membership in community. The police department needs to ELIMINATE gangs in Fresno, strategically, by creating an environment that's uncomfortable—where they have to leave Fresno or become good citizens.

With the recent 4200 felony arrests of bulldogs, the revolving door makes it uncomfortable. Many are going to prison and many others are starting to get tired of the life. Many youth are now denying that they want to be gang members, rather than aspiring to the gang life.

The hope is in giving them an alternative to the lifestyle. The 17% reduction in violent crime in Fresno is crime largely due to Bulldog operation. Central and Southeast drive the numbers. We need a grasp of Southwest Fresno.

The timing seems right for a long-term, four-pronged, comprehensive strategy:

- 1) Targeted, strategic enforcement, initially focused on the three most violent gangs.
- 2) Technology, including tracking via GPS, the use of wireless cameras that can be put up quickly to record activity from a remote site, and better mapping and tracking.
- 3) Prevention and Intervention, including active recruitment of gang members into MGPI
- 4) Community Involvement, including the use of crimestoppers and possibly working with faith-based organizations, perhaps a gun buy-back, celebrations for "taking back" the neighborhoods, reclaiming Brookhaven from the Dogpound.

Pat Barr inquired as to whether any of the prevention efforts have targeted the women in the affected neighborhoods.

Rebeca Rangel pointed out that the street lights are always out near Kirk Elementary School.

Chief Dyer stated that more attention needs to be focused on code enforcement, including making street lights a priority

Rebeca Rangel inquired about allies and whether they can be closed as they are breeding grounds for shootings, etc.

Chief Dyer stated that if all of the neighbors on the block agree, the ally can be closed.

Chief Dyer agreed that residents need to see the results, that Code Enforcement could put pressure on the slum lords, and that a holistic approach is what is needed.

Jesse McDonald pointed out that it's a good start and that the City needs to go out into the community and let the members know that what you're doing is designed to help them, not to harass them, and would like their cooperation.

Chief Dyer agreed that the door-to-door efforts need to include that component. He stated that the Police Department shouldn't be seen as an "occupying force."

Pat Barr suggested dealing with nurseries and the like to provide flowers and trees to the residents. This occurred after the Watts riots and many of those homes still grow the flowers. People had a chance to feel proud of their efforts toward lasting change.

Rebeca Rangel suggested a "community speak-out" with the Chief.

Gang Suppression Efforts / Progress

Chief Dyer reported that there had been a period of 25 days without anyone being shot, a feat that had not been achieved in quite some time. Prior to that, 20 people had been shot in two months.

Threats made toward Chief Dyer via DVD

Rezendo Lopez was able to make a video inside the jail. His girlfriend taped him w/digital camera in front of correctional officers. He would also record rap over the phone. Threats were made against the Chief, as well as his wife. They recordings were an attempt to rally the Bulldogs and get them fired up against police. The DAs office is

involved, as is the music industry. Lopez is a validated, violent gang member. Precautions and extra safety measures are in place at the request of the Mayor.

September Meeting

The Chief will be out of town on September, 27, the date of the next scheduled C.A.B. meeting. The members decided by consensus to cancel the meeting.

Round Table:

Pat Barr suggested letting the Northwest and the Northeast know that they still have officers in their areas too.

Chief Dyer agreed.

Announcements:

None

Closing Remarks:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting:

October 25th, 2007